

AMENDMENT

Please amend the paragraph beginning page 4, line 9 as follows:

-- ~~Fig. 3~~ Figs. 3A through 3D are a side ~~view~~ views of crossrods according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;--

Please amend the paragraph beginning page 5, line 21 as follows:

-- Referring to Figs. 3A through 3D ~~Fig. 3~~, the laundry stand 100 preferably comprises seven long crossrods 106, a second, shorter crossrod 106', a third, shorter crossrod 106'', and a fourth, shortest crossrod 106'''. The crossrods are preferably made from a hollow extruded polymeric material and may be reinforced with reinforcing rods placed within their hollow center. For purposes of cost it may be desirable to provide reinforcing rods in only some of the crossrods. However, the crossrods may be made from any other material, such as wood, and may be hollow or solid without departing from the scope of the present invention. The crossrods 106 each include end connectors 114 (Figs. 9A & 9B) comprising an enlarged, hollow cylindrical portion 116, an extension portion 118, and an abutment member 119. The enlarged, hollow cylindrical portion 116 defines an annular engagement surface 117. The extension portion 118 has a tapered annular groove 120 toward its distal end and an annular engagement surface 121 forming a proximal edge surface of the abutment member 119. The abutment member 119 has an outer annular band-like surface 119a. Moreover the end connectors 114 are preferably molded to be a single unitary item. The crossrods 106', 106'', 106''' each comprise end connectors 114' identical to end connectors 114 except that each connector 114' includes a shortened extension portion 118'.

Respectfully submitted,



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